

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A currency bill scanning device, comprising:
 - a receptacle for holding currency bills;
 - means for obtaining an identifier for a transaction involving one or more of the currency bills;
 - an image scanner operable to obtain an image ~~of~~ from at least one side of a received currency bill and to extract a serial number of the received currency bill from the image;
 - and
 - ~~a processing functionality for creating~~ processor communicatively coupled to the image scanner, the processor operable to create a data file which links the extracted serial numbers for the currency bills involved in the transaction to the identifier for the transaction comprising the one or more currency bill images, wherein each currency bill image is tagged with the extracted serial number of that currency bill and the identifier of the transaction involving that currency bill to allow for the involved one or more currency bills to be subsequently traced by serial number to that transaction.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the image scanner obtains at least a partial image of each currency bill.
3. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein the partial image is obtained of each side of each currency bill.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the image scanner obtains a full image of each currency bill.
5. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein the full image is obtained of each side of each currency bill.

6. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the means for obtaining the identifier comprises a data entry device.
7. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein the data entry device is a keypad.
8. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein the data entry device is a card reader.
9. (Original) The device of claim 6 wherein the data entry device is a biometric scanner.
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 further including a currency bill denomination ~~functionality~~ discriminator.
12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 11 wherein the denomination ~~functionality is implemented by extracting~~ discriminator is operative to extract a bill denomination value from the image.
13. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 further including a transport mechanism adapted to transport the one or more currency bills, one at a time, from ~~the~~ an input receptacle past the image scanner, to at least one output receptacle.
14. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 13 wherein the one or more currency bills are transported by the transport mechanism with a narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport.
15. (Original) The device of claim 13 wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of output receptacles.
16. (Original) The device of claim 1 further including a controller adapted to control the operation of the device.

17. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 further including a memory for storing the ~~serial number and transaction identifier data~~ data file.
18. (Original) The device of claim 1 further comprising an interface through which the data file is communicated from the device to a computer.
19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the image scanner extracts a denomination of the currency bill ~~for storage~~ that is further included in the data file.
20. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the image scanner extracts a Federal Reserve Bank number of the currency bill ~~for storage~~ that is further included in the data file.
21. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1 wherein the image scanner extracts a signatory on the currency bill ~~for storage~~ that is further included in the data file.

22. (Currently Amended) A currency bill scanning method, comprising:
- receiving currency bills;
 - obtaining an identifier for a transaction involving one or more of the received currency bills;
 - scanning the currency bills to obtain an image ~~of~~ from at least one side of a received currency bill;
 - extracting a serial number of the received currency bill from the image; and
 - creating a data file ~~which links the extracted serial numbers for the currency bills involved in the transaction to the identifier for the transaction~~ comprising the one or more currency bill images, wherein each currency bill image is tagged with the extracted serial number of that currency bill and the identifier of the transaction involving that currency bill to allow for the involved one or more currency bills to be subsequently traced by serial number to that transaction.
23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein scanning obtains at least a partial image of each currency bill.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the partial image is obtained of each side of each currency bill.
25. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein scanning obtains a full image of each currency bill.
26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the full image is obtained of each side of each currency bill.
27. (Cancelled).
28. (Original) The method of claim 22 further including denominating each currency bill.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein denominating comprises extracting a bill denomination value from the image.
30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 further including a transporting the one or more currency bills, one at a time, from an input receptacle to at least one output receptacle.
31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the one or more currency bills are transported with a narrow dimension parallel to a direction of transport.
32. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the at least one output receptacle is a plurality of output receptacles.
33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 further comprising storing the ~~serial number and transaction identifier data~~ data file.
34. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising externally communicating the data file.
35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 further including extracting a Federal Reserve Bank number of the currency bill ~~for storage~~ that is further included in the data file.
36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 further including extracting a signatory on the currency bill ~~for storage~~ that is further included in the data file.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing currency bills, comprising:
- obtaining an identifier for a currency bill distribution transaction;
 - distributing a number of currency bills for that transaction;
 - ~~scanning at least partially imaging~~ each distributed currency bill to ~~obtain~~ extract a currency bill serial number from the currency bill image; and
 - linking the currency bill image with the serial number(s) for the distributed currency bill(s) ~~to~~ and the transaction identifier so as to allow the distributed currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number.
38. (Original) The method of claim 37 wherein the distribution transaction comprises a currency bill withdrawal transaction.
- 39-40. (Cancelled).
41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37 wherein linking comprises forming an image file containing ~~an~~ the at least partial image of each currency bill for that transaction along with the serial number of those currency bills and the transaction identifier.

42. (Currently Amended) A method for receiving currency bills, comprising:
- obtaining an identifier for a currency bill reception transaction;
 - receiving a number of currency bills for that transaction;
 - ~~scanning~~ at least partially imaging each received currency bill ~~to obtain and~~
extracting a currency bill serial number from the currency bill image; and
 - linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the ~~distributed~~
received currency bill(s) ~~to and~~ the transaction identifier so as to allow the distributed currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number.
43. (Original) The method of claim 42 wherein the reception transaction comprises a currency bill deposit transaction.
- 44-45. (Cancelled).
46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42 wherein linking comprises forming an image file containing ~~an~~ the at least partial image of each currency bill for that transaction along with the serial number of those currency bills and the transaction identifier.

47. (Currently Amended) A device for distributing currency bills, comprising:
- means for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill distribution transaction;
 - a mechanism for distributing a number of currency bills for that transaction;
 - ~~a scanning an imaging~~ device operable to ~~scan~~ at least partially image each distributed currency bill and ~~obtain~~ extract a currency bill serial number; and
 - a ~~processing functionality~~ processor communicatively coupled to the image device, the processor operable for linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the ~~received~~ distributed currency bill(s) ~~to~~ and the transaction identifier so as to allow the distributed currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number.
48. (Original) The device of claim 47 wherein the distribution transaction comprises a currency bill withdrawal transaction.
- 49-50. (Cancelled).
51. (Original) The device of claim 47 wherein ~~processing functionality links by the~~ linking includes forming an image file containing ~~an~~ the image of each currency bill for that transaction along with the serial number of those currency bills and the transaction identifier.

52. (Currently Amended) A device for receiving currency bills, comprising:
means for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill reception transaction;
a mechanism for receiving a number of currency bills for that transaction;
~~a scanning an imaging~~ device operable to ~~scan~~ at least partially image each received currency bill and ~~obtain~~ extract a currency bill serial number; and
a ~~processing functionality~~ processor communicatively coupled to the image device, the processor operable for linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the received currency bill(s) ~~to~~ and the transaction identifier so as to allow the ~~distributed~~ received currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number.

53. (Original) The device of claim 52 wherein the reception transaction comprises a currency bill deposit transaction.

54-55. (Cancelled).

56. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 52 wherein the ~~processing functionality links~~ by linking includes forming an image file containing ~~an~~ the image of each currency bill for that transaction along with the serial number of those currency bills and the transaction identifier.

57. (New) A device for distributing currency bills, comprising:

- a control panel for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill distribution transaction;

- a mechanism for distributing a number of currency bills for that transaction;

- an imaging device operable to at least partially image each distributed currency bill and extract a currency bill serial number; and

- a processor communicatively coupled to the imaging device, the processor operable for linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the distributed currency bill(s) and the transaction identifier so as to allow the distributed currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number.

58. (New) A device for receiving currency bills, comprising:

- a control panel for obtaining an identifier for a currency bill reception transaction;

- a mechanism for receiving a number of currency bills for that transaction;

- an imaging device operable to at least partially image each received currency bill and extract a currency bill serial number; and

- a processor communicatively coupled to the imaging device, the processor operable for linking the currency bill image(s) with the serial number(s) for the received currency bill(s) and the transaction identifier so as to allow the received currency bills to be traced to a certain transaction by their serial number.

59. (New) The device of claim 2 further including a memory for storing the data file.

60. (New) The method of claim 23 further comprising storing the data file.